



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

GENERAL NOTES.

The Melbourne Observatory.—Private letters received at the Lick Observatory confirm the reports in the Australian papers that Mr. P. BARACCHI, State Astronomer of Victoria, resigned his position in August of the present year. It is now stated in *Nature*, on the authority of the *Age* (Melbourne), that “no successor is to be appointed, the State Government having decided to drop the work, thereby saving upwards of 4000£ annually.”

We join heartily in the hope expressed in *Nature* that “some scheme of Commonwealth control will be evolved before it is too late.” It will be recalled that the Commonwealth of Australia at the time of its formation, took over the meteorological departments of all the States, but left the astronomical observatories under state control. More recently the Commonwealth Government has set aside a tract of land on Mt. Stromlo, at Canberra, the federal capital, as the site of a Commonwealth observatory, and has erected a building to shelter the 9-inch Oddie refractor (presented by the late J. ODDIE, of Adelaide). Mr. P. BARACCHI and his chief assistant, Dr. J. M. BALDWIN, have made frequent visits to Mt. Stromlo to test the suitability of the site, and their reports show that the conditions there are excellent.

We regret to record the death, on October 8, 1915, of Mr. THOMAS CAWTHRON, of Nelson, New Zealand, at the age of 82. Mr. CAWTHRON accumulated a large fortune in the shipping business, and of late years drew upon this with the greatest liberality to benefit the city of Nelson. By the terms of his will, executed in London in 1902, the greater part of his estate is left in trust for “the purchase of land and the erection and maintenance of an industrial and technical school, institute and museum to be called the Cawthron Institute.” This is to be located at Nelson.

At this writing it is uncertain what effect Mr. CAWTHRON’S death will have upon the plans for the Cawthron Solar Observatory, for the foundation of which he had offered a gift of £30,000. Recent advices indicate that legal difficulties were

delaying the purchase of the site that had been selected and the construction to it of a suitable road. It was hoped that these difficulties would be cleared by early September, and that Mr. CAWTHRON would then sign the trust deed. If he did not do so, the fate of the solar observatory would seem to depend upon the provisions in the will for the Cawthron Institute. In this event, astronomers the world over will hope that these provisions are broad enuf to permit the trustees to carry out the admirable plans that have been made for the observatory.

R. G. A.

Another Canadian Observatory Projected.—Some time ago a project was begun by the Royal Astronomical Society of Canada with the object of securing an astronomical observatory for Toronto. It was proposed that the city provide a suitable site, the University maintain the institution and the Society use it as its headquarters and maintain its library there. The University cordially supported the scheme and the city agreed to give a splendid site in a ten-acre park. Prospects were excellent for the proposal to be carried to completion, but the breaking out of war put a temporary check to it.

However, the Society considered it wise to get sketch plans of the building drawn and to invite suggestion and criticism. These plans show a building in the shape of a T, having a 20-inch, a 9-inch and a photo-telescope at its extremities. A fine lecture hall and library as well as office and laboratory rooms are provided.

It is hoped that such an admirable project may not be too long delayed.

It is stated in *Science* that Miss MARGARET HARWOOD, who is spending the present academic year in study at the University of California, as research fellow of the Nantucket Maria Mitchell Association, has been appointed for an indefinite term, fellow of this Association and director of its observatory. Her new year at the Nantucket Observatory will begin June 15, 1916.

It is also stated that a \$500.00 Maria Mitchell fellowship for research work at Harvard College Observatory will be available for the three years 1916-1919.

Science records the death, on October 17, 1915, of the Rev. Father CHARLES M. CHARROPPIN, S. J., formerly head of the Department of Science of St. Louis University, and known especially for his astronomical work.

Rev. Father M. SELGA, S. J., who spent the year 1914-15 at the Lick Observatory as a special student, has gone to Manila, P. I., to take charge of the astronomical department of the Manila Observatory.

It is reported that Professor HUGO VON SEELIGER, director of the Munich Observatory, has been made a Knight of the Prussian Order of Merit, and that Professor J. C. KAPTEYN, of Groningen, Holland, has been appointed a Foreign Knight of the same order.

Nature records the death, on August 31, 1915, of Dr. THEODOR ALBRECHT, chief of the International Bureau for Investigating Latitude Variation since its inception in 1898.

Spectral Classification of Stars and the Order of Stellar Evolution.—A discussion on this subject was held at the Manchester meeting of the British Association, Section A, on September 9, 1915, in which Professor FOWLER, Sir F. W. DYSON, Professor EDDINGTON, Father CORTIE, Professor NICHOLSON, Mr. T. R. MERTON, Sir ERNEST RUTHERFORD, and Dr. F. A. LINDEMANN participated. Their arguments, which should be read by all interested in the subject, are given in *The Observatory* for October, 1915.

President PICKERING, of the American Astronomical Society, has appointed Professor S. D. TOWNLEY (Chairman), Miss ANNIE J. CANNON, and Professor H. N. RUSSELL, to act as a committee to consider the revision of the nomenclature of variable stars. Dr. TOWNLEY's paper on this subject, which led to the appointing of the committee, is printed on another page of this number of the *Publications*.

The executive committee of the American Astronomical Society, on the invitation of Professor JOHN A. MILLER, has decided to hold the next meeting of the Society at Swarthmore, Penn., in August, 1916.

Small Telescope for Sale.—A Harris telescope of 2½-inches aperture, brass tube and low brass tripod, all enclosed in a wooden box, is offered for sale at \$20.00 by Miss GERTRUDE H. CARLTON, 730 Nineteenth St., Oakland, Cal. Several astronomical books of popular interest are included in the offer. Such a telescope could be made very useful in the observation of variable stars.

Science each year prints a list of the doctorates conferred by American universities. In the list printed in the number for October 22, 1915, we find that seven doctorates were conferred in astronomy—three by the University of Chicago, two by the University of Michigan, and one each by the Universities of Pennsylvania and California. In the eighteen years over which the records extend, 71 doctorates have been conferred in astronomy out of a total of 3095 in all of the sciences.

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF
THE ASTRONOMICAL SOCIETY OF THE PACIFIC, HELD IN THE
ROOMS OF THE SOCIETY, 752 PHELAN BUILDING, SAN
FRANCISCO, ON SATURDAY, NOV. 27, 1915, AT 2:00 P. M.

There were present the following:—

President R. G. AITKEN and Directors CUSHING, COSTA, CORNISH, LEUSCHNER, BURCKHALTER, TOWNLEY, MARKWART and RICHARDSON.

The attention of the Board was directed to the fact that a proposition had been made to the Society by the First Federal Trust Company of San Francisco, to take from the Society its First Mortgage, 6% Gold Bond, No. 144, issued by the Moulton Irrigated Lands Company, and give therefor a new bond in equal amount and interest, together with a bonus of \$10.

The matter having been investigated by the Finance Committee and favorably reported upon, a resolution was passed authorizing the Finance Committee to make the exchange. Discretion was left in the hands of the Committee either to accept a bond of the new issue of the Moulton Irrigated Lands Company, in lieu of the one now held, or to make a cash sale of Bond No. 144 at a price equal to par plus the premium offered by the First Federal Trust Company.